

Thus the view of Fleet that the Puṣyamitras are to be placed in Central India somewhere in the country along the banks of the Narmadā, seems to be most reasonable.⁴¹³ This is supported by numismatic evidence, a hoard of coins brought to light by D.B. Diskalkar,⁴¹⁴ from the village of Bamnala, 24 miles to the south of the Narmadā, indicates that there was a serious disturbance of peace in the vicinity of Mekalā, in the middle of the fifth century A.D. and we may connect it with the rising of the Puṣyamitras in that region.⁴¹⁵

17. *Ṣāhānuṣāhi*⁴¹⁶ (No. 1, L. 23) :

Ṣāhānuṣāhis are also mentioned to have paid homage to Samudragupta along with other tribes. The Ṣāhānuṣāhis are to be identified with the Sassanids or the Sassanian kings. The title '*Ṣāhānuṣāhi* (*śahān-śāh*) has frequently been used by the Sassanian kings.⁴¹⁷ The contemporary Sassanian emperor was Shahpur II (A.D. 309-379).⁴¹⁸ The Sassanians are known to have been the rulers of Persia from A.D. 211 to 651.⁴¹⁹ According to tradition the dynasty is named after its founder Sassan. His son and successor Papaka, seized power by a coup d'état against his suzerain, the Parthian king and his accession was the starting point for a new era (A.D. 208).⁴²⁰

Goyal⁴²¹ confuses the Sassanians with the Pārasīkas of Kālidāsa. But they were different from the Pārasīkas. The Sassanians had founded a powerful kingdom in Persia, but they had not yet conquered the whole of Persia.⁴²² The Pārasīkas of Kālidāsa were the Ṣāhis.⁴²³ Though the possibility of a Kuṣāṇa-Sassanian coalition may not be ruled out it seems that at the time of Samudragupta,⁴²⁴ three kings the Daivaputra (the Kuṣāṇas), the Ṣāhi (the Persians or the Pārasīkas of Kālidāsa), and the Ṣāhānuṣāhi (the Sassanians) were ruling independently.⁴²⁵

Buddha Prakash⁴²⁶ traces the Khatri sub-castes Sahni and Osahan as the remnants of the title '*Ṣāhānuṣāhi*'. But this is far-fetched. So far as Sahni is concerned it is to be connected with Sādhanika the name of an officer in the administration of the early medieval period.⁴²⁷

It may be noted that the Sassanian title Śahan-Śāh was used for the Great Emperor in Mughal period, which usage continues. In popular parlance the term is used for calling or